



Bush's 2007 budget request increases funds for libraries

By **Peg Branson**, Consultant,
LSTA Program and Continuing Education
Public Library Development Team

On February 6, President Bush released a \$2.7 trillion fiscal year 2007 budget request that included funds for libraries. According to the American Library Association, the budget includes \$171,500,000 for the LSTA - Library Services and Technology Act - state grants program, despite an extremely tight fiscal environment where many programs are experiencing cuts in funding. The amount awarded for the state grants program is distributed on a formula basis to states, including Wisconsin, for a variety of state and local library projects. The amount approved for this part of the LSTA program in FY 2006 was \$163,746,000, of which Wisconsin received just over \$3 million.

The release of the President's budget for FY 2007 is just the first step in the budget process. The budget must be considered and acted upon by the Senate and House and signed by the President before it is final. October 1, 2006, is the start of federal FY 2007.

Also included within the LSTA budget proposal for FY 2007 are funds for programs that are administered directly at the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The budget includes \$25,000,000 for the Librarians for the 21st Century program, a program to recruit and educate a new generation of librarians and expand programs for faculty and curriculum development to educate 21st century librarians; \$12,930,000 for National Leadership Grants for Libraries for projects of national impact that provide models that can be widely adapted or replicated by others, including projects that provide creative solutions on issues of national importance and provide leadership for other organizations; and \$3,675,000 for the Improving Library Service to Native Americans program.

For school libraries, the President requested level funding for the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program at \$19.4 million. The budget also includes a request for \$30,000,000 to revitalize the Washington DC public library system. ☼

School districts to share estimated \$28.2 million from CSF

By **Kate Bugher**, School Library Media Consultant
Instructional Media and Technology Team

Wisconsin's 426 school districts will share an estimated \$28.2 million in school library aid from the state's Common School Fund, according to calculations by the Department of Public Instruction.

"Income from the common School Fund that is paid to school districts is a critical resource for school library media centers to provide print, multi-media, and other library materials that open the world of information to students," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Research shows that school library programs that are adequately staffed by licensed professionals and funded so they can provide a broad range of resources lead to higher student achievement."

Please see Common School Fund — on page 3

In this issue

Bush's 2007 budget request increases funds for libraries	1
School districts to share estimated \$28.2 million from Common School Fund	1
Study reveals school library media programs contribute to student academic success	2
PLDT wins Web award	2
2006 summer library program features animals of all kinds	4
Records retention schedule approved for public libraries and systems	5
Trustee Corner	6
Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project: Providing access to electronic state government information today and in the future	7
Summary of BadgerLink database usage 1999-2005, Part II	8
Preliminary findings from the shared integrated library system cost study	10
Book donations to aid Louisiana students and teachers	12

Study reveals library media programs contribute to student academic success

By **Kate Bugher**, School Library Media Consultant
Instructional Media and Technology Team

A recently completed study of Wisconsin school library media programs, commissioned by the Department of Public Instruction, has provided insights into how school library media programs and library media specialists contribute to student success. The study, funded by a FY 2005 LSTA grant, examined the leadership and instructional roles of Wisconsin public school library media specialists required for a quality school library media program and the direct relationship with and impact on student achievement and learning across all grade levels.

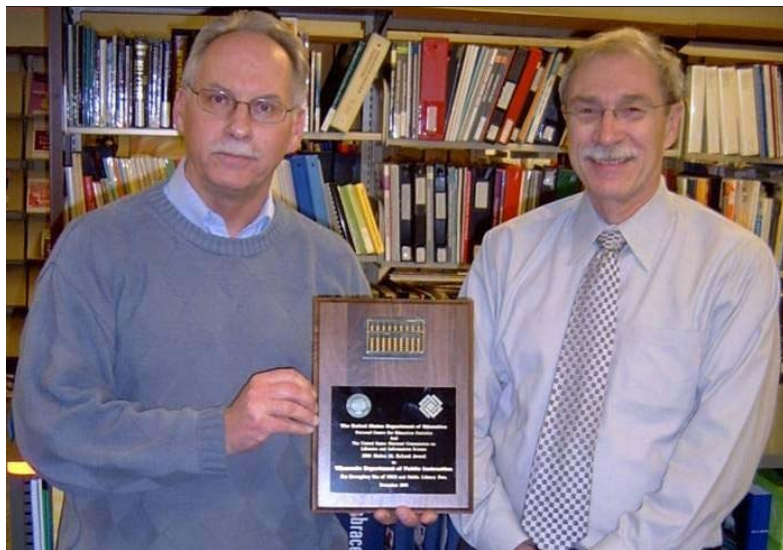
The study was conducted in three parts: online questionnaire to all

certified Wisconsin K-12 library media specialists, online survey to teachers and students in 51 randomly selected schools, and case studies of five best-practice school library media programs. Quantitative data on library media program structure, resources and operations was collected from 855 library media specialists for 1,043 school programs. Qualitative data on the benefits received from library media programs was collected from 107 teachers and 3,957 students in the 51 schools. WINSS school and student data for the responding school libraries was also extracted and analyzed.

According to statistical analysis, higher achievement on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) is correlated with high

staffing levels with full-time certified library media specialists, more time spent on instructionally-related student and teacher activities, larger and more current collections, greater amounts of technology resources and access to computers, and longer hours of operation. It also showed that library media specialists help students acquire unique skills not taught in the classroom and information and technology skills essential for students in the 21st century.

This study is the 16th state school library impact study conducted since 1993 and it supports the findings from previous state studies. Further information on this study can be obtained from Kate Bugher, School Library Media Consultant, DPI at 608-267-9287 or kathryn.bugher@dpi.state.wi.us. ☼



PLDT wins Web award

The Public Library Development team's statistics Website received the 2005 Helen M. Eckard Award from the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, in honor of innovative and exemplary use of public library data. Shown with the award are Bob Bocher (L), who designed the Website, and Al Zimmerman, who manages the collection of data from Wisconsin's 387 public libraries. ☼

Channel

January-February 2006 Volume 41, Number 3

Channel (ISSN 0146-1095) is published every-other month by the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Its primary purpose is to provide information on the services of the DLTC and matters of interest to libraries and school library media centers in Wisconsin. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds partially support Channel Publication. LSTA is administered at the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Send comments about bylined articles to the authors. Direct other content inquiries to editor Roslyn Wise at (608) 266-6439 (roslyn.wise@dpi.state.wi.us). To make mailing list changes, contact Peg Branson at (608) 266-2413 (peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us).

The DPI does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

Common School Fund — from page 1

“Increased payments from the Common School Fund come at an important time for school districts, which are struggling to provide strong educational programs for their students in spite of ever tighter budgetary conditions. While aid from the Common School fund shouldn’t be a districts’ sole source for library acquisitions, it is an important and welcome resource for school districts as they strive to ensure a quality education for every child,” she added.

While districts won’t receive payments until April 25, the DPI provides the calculations early to help districts plan expenditures and permit library media specialists to order materials as needed. Purchases must be made by June 30, 2006 and must be used for expenditures cited in statute.

The \$28.2 million for library aide represents a 15 percent increase in income from the fund. Library aid payments for the 2005-06 school year are estimated at \$22.32 per census student, an increase from last year’s payment of \$19.52. The school census is the number of persons between the ages of 4 and 20 living in a school district as reported to the DPI. The statewide school census count was 1,262,999 for 2004-05.

Common School Fund payments are derived primarily from interest earned on bonds and low-interest loans made from the fund to school districts and municipalities by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which manages the fund. As established in the state constitution and statutes governing the Common School Fund, timber revenue from public lands, certain fines and forfeitures, and proceeds from unclaimed property are added to the principal of the fund.

The list of Common School fund allocation estimates by school district and more information about the Common School Fund can be found on the DPI website at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sfs/comsch.html>.

Statewide Resource Contacts

Cooperative Children’s Book Center

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706
ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/
Kathleen Horning, Director (608) 263-3720

Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan

814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233-2385
Brian Hannemann, Interlibrary Loan Librarian (414) 286-3082

WILS/Interlibrary Loan

728 State Street, Rooms 464 and B106B, Madison, WI 53706-1494
schneid@wils.wisc.edu <http://www.wils.wisc.edu/>
Kathy Schneider, Director (608) 263-2773

Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

813 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/rll/lbphinfo.html>
Marsha Valance, Regional Librarian (800) 242-8822

Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,
125 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841;
(800) 441-4563, fax (608) 267-1052
www.dpi.wi.gov/dltcl

Richard Grobschmidt

Division Administrator (608) 266-2205

Public Library Development Team

Michael Cross, Director 267-9225

Robert Bocher, Consultant

Technology 266-2127

Peg Branson, Consultant

LSTA and Continuing Education 266-2413

John DeBacher, Consultant

Public Library Administration 266-7270

Barbara Huntington, Consultant

Public Library Youth and Special Services 267-5077

Alan Zimmerman, Consultant

Public Library System Administration & Finance 266-3939

Instructional Media and Technology Team

Stephen Sanders, Director 266-3856

Kate Bugher, School Library Consultant

Instructional Media and Technology 267-9287

Barry Golden, Education Consultant

Evaluating States Education Technology Programs 267-2373

Stuart Ciske, Technology Consultant

Instructional Technology Planning & Integration 267-9289

Arun Marathe, IS Specialist

Evaluation States Education Technology Programs 266-1924

Donna Steffan, Technology Consultant

Information & Technology Literacy Standards & Integration 267-1282

DPI Library & Statistical Information Center

Kay Ihlenfeldt, Team Leader 266-3108

Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Team

2109 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison, WI 53716; fax 224-6178

Sally J. Drew, Director 224-6161

Circulation Desk 224-6169

Mary Clark, Coordinator

Resource Sharing Technology 224-6179

Loretta Harmatuck

Government Services 224-6165

Mary Struckmeyer, Coordinator

Reference and Interloan 224-6168

Willeen Tretheway

Audiovisual and Technical Services 224-6171

Terry Wilcox

Interlibrary Loan Services 224-6163

Vickie Long

WISCAT User Support 224-5394

Wisconsin Child Care Information Center

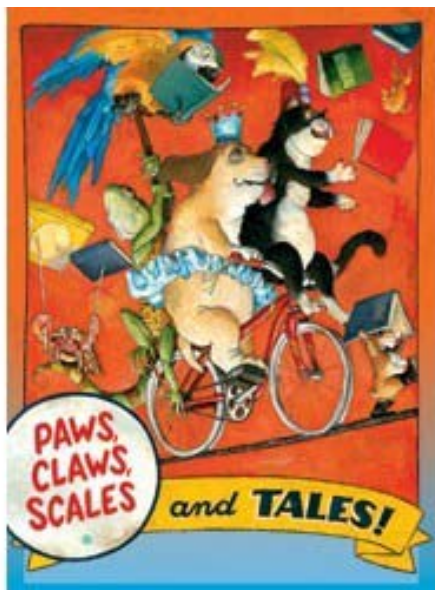
Lita Haddal, Director (800) 362-7353 or (608) 224-5388

To send e-mail, use the following format (all lowercase letters):
firstname.lastname@dpi.state.wi.us

2006 summer library program features animals of all kinds

By **Barbara Huntington**, Public Library Youth and Special Services Consultant
Public Library Development Team

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) sponsors an annual statewide summer reading program for children through public libraries. The children's theme for 2006 is "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales!" The artwork was created by children's book illustrator, David Shannon. This year's program promises to be warm and fuzzy. Whether a first pet was a pet rock, dog, or cat, everyone remembers their early experiences with pets.



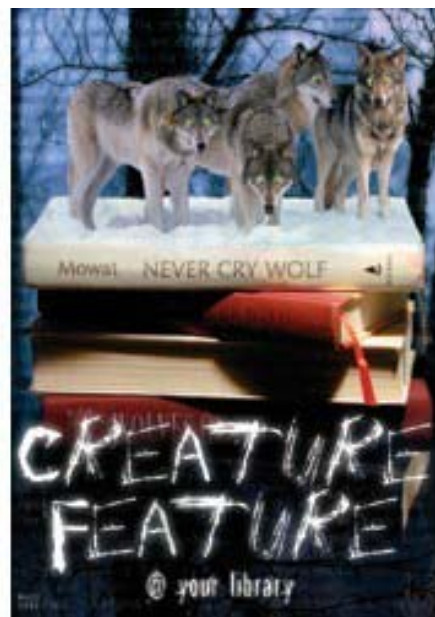
The manual has ideas and book suggestions for all ages on a variety of warm and furry creatures. Public libraries will plan activities all summer that tie-in with the theme and involve reading, crafts, guest presenters and other activities related to pets for younger readers

The teen theme this year is "Creature Feature" with artwork designed by Russell Walks. Walks

has done work for various comics companies, including Marvel Comic. He designed the 25th Anniversary poster for the movie, *Star Wars* and has done numerous related items licensed by Star Wars and for Warner Brothers. Walks designed an edgy poster for the theme this year, featuring menacing wolves with glowing eyes.

Wisconsin belongs to a collaborative of 36 states that work together to produce quality support materials for their summer library programs. This year's pet and wild animal themes have elements that celebrate the joys of pet ownership and the relationship of people with all animals.

The Collaborative Summer Library Program organization created video and radio public service announcements (PSAs) to promote the program. This year's video PSA features an odd looking character, muffled in heavy winter clothes who draws attention as he walks into a public library. Everywhere he goes, animals slip out from underneath the clothing to enjoy the library on their own. A librarian who tries to return a dropped mitten is puzzled when all she finds of the "person" she thinks she saw, is a jacket on the floor covering a rabbit, the last of the animals to toss off the clothing and



escape among the bookshelves. DLTCL sent copies to all the Wisconsin regional library systems. The systems will either help libraries make copies or give them instructions on how to order them through the Collaborative Summer Library Program organization.

The radio PSAs were produced by DPI Publications Editor, Ron Anderson, who voiced the English versions and recorded the Spanish translations, provided by Allegro Translations of Madison. The radio PSAs can be downloaded directly from the Collaborative Summer Library Program web page at www.cslpreads.org.

The Division has also arranged a State Fair promotion this summer and is hoping to have several county fairs involved in a second promotion. Coupons for free admission will be made available to librarians for use in their programs this summer. ✧

Records retention schedule approved for public libraries and systems

By **John DeBacher**, Public Library Administration Consultant
Public Library Development Team

On February 27, 2006, the Wisconsin Public Records Board approved a comprehensive record retention schedule that may be adopted and used by public libraries and public library systems in Wisconsin. The new general schedule, the first in the state for public libraries and library systems, establishes the timeframe for the disposal of records that are no longer required for administrative, financial, or legal purposes. Adopting the schedule will also enable the library to dispose of designated records without prior approval of Wisconsin Historical Society. Previously, only those public libraries that had filed individual retention schedules with the Public Records Board and obtained a waiver from the Wisconsin Historical Society were permitted to dispose of records without prior notification and approval.

The Records Retention Schedule was developed over the past year by an ad hoc group of stakeholders including members of the public library community, the Wisconsin Public Records Board, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL), and the State Historical Society. Participants included: Sue Braden, Hedberg Public Library, Janesville; Mike Cross and John K. DeBacher, DLTCL, Public Library Development Team; Anita Taylor Doering, La Crosse Public Library; Mary E. Dunn, Tomahawk Public Library; Virginia Fritsch, Wisconsin Historical Society; Steve Hirsch, Public Records Board; Julie A. Schmude, Winnefox Library System; and Virginia Schwartz, Milwaukee Public Library.

Why a Records Retention Schedule?

Wisconsin government agencies, including public libraries, are responsible to ensure that the public records they create and receive while conducting business are available to the public and destroyed only as permitted by law. The State Historical Society and the Public Records Board are responsible for assisting state and local government agencies with the administration of public records law, records management, and preservation.

The purpose of the records retention schedule is to authorize destruction of public library records as authorized by the schedule on an annual basis. In developing the schedule, the committee attempted to be comprehensive in addressing the types of records that may be created by public libraries and library systems. Any record not covered by this schedule or municipal law must be retained 7 years unless the record is added by amendment and the shorter time period approved by the state Public Records Board.

Schedule must be formally adopted

In order for a public library or library system to utilize the schedule and dispose of public records, the library or library system board must formally adopt the Records Retention Schedule and notify the State Historical Society and the Wisconsin Public Records Board. To facilitate this process, a Notification of Adoption form was developed, approved by the Public Records Board, and is available on the Public Library Development Team's web site at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/retensch.html>.

Libraries are advised to adopt the schedule even though they may not

have all the records listed in it. The simplest course of action is for the library to adopt the retention schedule as it is presented.

Alternately, a library may adopt the entire schedule, individual sections, or a modified version. A library may develop a schedule with different retention periods from those listed. But for records to be retained less than seven years, the library may not adopt a retention period shorter than that indicated in the schedule without the approval of the Public Records Board. A new schedule, or list of modifications, must be sent with the Notification Form. Specific library records can be listed in Section 9 of the schedule, "Miscellaneous Records." An adopted schedule becomes the library's policy for record retention, destruction, and local preservation.

Benefits of adopting the schedule

By adopting and following the records schedule, a library not only has a clearly approved process for retaining and disposing of public records, but the library will no longer have to give notice to the Wisconsin Historical Society prior to the disposal of records. The schedule designates how long records must be retained, and what types of records must be retained permanently. The notification form not only serves to establish the library's intent with the State Historical Society and the Public Records Board, but, once accepted and acknowledged, provides a waiver of the usual sixty-day notification period specified in Wisconsin law for records listed in the schedule (Wis. Stat. s. 19.21).

The Record Retention Schedule for Public Libraries and Public Library

Please see Records— on page 7

Trustee Corner

Our library director is retiring. Could the library trust funds be used to pay for a sick leave settlement? Could those donation funds be used to pay for a farewell gift?

By John DeBacher, Public Library Administration Consultant
Public Library Development Team

While it may be appropriate for the library board to approve the use of donation or trust funds to pay for regular personnel costs including continued health insurance, it is not appropriate to use those funds to purchase a gift for the director.

The library board has the authority to receive, manage, and expend gifts and donations. So long as the funds being used had no special terms regarding their use, the board may use the proceeds for library purposes as determined by the board. Personnel expense, including benefits, is part of the operation of the library. The use of gift funds to pay health insurance premiums for accrued sick leave, or a merit increase in salary may be appropriate if the use conforms with the library's personnel policy. Typically, however, such personnel costs are budgeted for and expended from the library's regular operating budget.

To use library funds, even from donations or gifts, as a bonus or gift for a departing employee might be subject to challenge as inappropriate use of public funds. Wisconsin has a constitutional principal known as the "public purpose doctrine" that, simply stated, requires public funds to be expended only for public purposes. Although donations or endowment funds held by the library board may have originated from private donations, once the board accepts donations, they become public funds and must be spent for library purposes. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities published an article, "Understanding the Public Purpose Doctrine," as Legal Caption 890 in May, 2003 that provides further explanation of the doctrine.

The courts have established the following test for determining whether a particular appropriation is for a public purpose:

For the public purpose requirement to be met, the subject matter of the appropriation must be a public necessity, convenience or welfare. Each case must be decided with reference to the object sought to be accomplished and to the degree and manner in which that object affects the public welfare. Factors which may be considered include the course or usage of the government, the objects for which taxes have been customarily levied, the objects which have been considered necessary for the support and proper use of government, the extent to which the expenditure results in competition with private enterprise, the presence or absence of a general economic benefit, the number of citizens benefited, and the necessity and infeasibility of private performance. *Hopper v. City of Madison*, 79 Wis.2d 120, 256 N.W.2d 143 (1977).

Another issue to consider is whether such use, if publicized, might negatively affect future donations or the public perception of the library and its operations. If the expenditure is unprecedented or not in keeping with general practice and policy it may be perceived as frivolous or inappropriate use of public funds since the payments will not directly improve library service to the public.

It is the library board's responsibility to determine whether the payment fits existing policy and serves the public purpose. Ultimately, the courts could be involved in a final determination. When approving expenditures, board members should be confident that the use will withstand scrutiny and possible challenge. If there is any doubt, the board may wish to consult the municipal attorney.

Questions about public library administration and funding may be addressed to John DeBacher at 608-266-7270 or john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us.

Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project: Providing access to electronic state government information today and in the future

By Abby Swanton, Wisconsin Document Depository Librarian
Reference and Loan Library

In October 2005, the Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project was formally introduced to the Wisconsin Document Depository library community. The *Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project* is a collaborative effort involving the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library established the Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project using technologies acquired through the OCLC Digital Archive. The OCLC Digital Archive allows project staff to capture, preserve and make electronic publications permanently accessible. The primary objective is to develop strategies for providing permanent electronic access to web-based Wisconsin electronic government documents and to determine how state agencies could continue to fulfill their statutory obligation to participate in the Wisconsin Document Depository Program with electronic formats.

Information is being produced in greater quantities and with greater frequency throughout state government than at any other time in Wisconsin history. Wisconsin Statutes, as amended by 1991 Wisconsin Act 285, require Wisconsin state agencies to send copies of their publications to the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library for distribution to libraries through the Wisconsin Document Depository Program. Today, because more documents are provided exclusively in digital formats on the Internet, the requirement to comply with this law and the ability to preserve and make available a record of major state government programs for use by the public throughout Wisconsin now and in the future has become very challenging.

Participation in the Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project is open to ALL libraries regardless of depository library status. There are several ways a library can participate to help make this project a success. All libraries are encouraged to participate in the pilot project by using the records that are being made available in WorldCat and WISCAT. Depository libraries are already downloading digital archive records into their local OPACs and actively promoting access to the records through their local OPACs or other online catalogs such as WISCAT or MadCat. Records can be easily identified as part of the Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project by the OCLC symbol WIDAG.

All digital archive records so far have been made available to libraries fully cataloged. A monthly digital archive record list includes WIDoc and OCLC numbers for each digital archive record entry for that month. These lists are accessible online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/rll/indship.html>. The first digital archive list is 2005-16 Digital Archive. Since then there has been about one list a month. Although there are links included with each digital archive record entry on the lists, the most reliable way to get directly to the electronic document is not from the list but from the catalog record MARC 856 field. In most records there are two 856 fields, one for the original website and one for the digital archive record. The digitally archived version of the document has the term 'digitalarchive' in the URL. Unlike other URLs, digital archive content is constant. Access to the electronic document through the digital archive URL will remain regardless of what changes are made to the original URL.

Further information is available on the following websites:

Wisconsin Document Depository Program: <http://dpi.wi.gov/rll/inddep.html> and **Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project:** <http://dpi.wi.gov/rll/wddp-digitalarchive.html>.

Feedback, questions and inquiries about the Wisconsin Digital Archive Pilot Project may be directed to Abby Swanton, Abbigail.Swanton@dpi.state.wi.us. ☺

Records — from page 5

Systems can be found on the Public Library Development Team web site at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/retensch.html>. Additional information on Wisconsin's Public Records law as it applies to public libraries and systems can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/publicrec.html>.

Additional information and resources are available in the 2005 Wisconsin Attorney General's Public Records Law Compliance Outline, which can be found, along with other public records information, at <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/dls/spar.asp#pubrec>

If you have further questions about adoption and use of the new Records Retention Schedule, contact John DeBacher, john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us (608)266-7270. ☺

Summary of BadgerLink Database Usage 1999-2005, Part II

By **Sally Drew**, Director
Reference and Loan Library
and

Dietmar Wolfram & Hong Xie
School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Introduction

In Part I of this series (see the November-December 2005 issue of *Channel*), BadgerLink database and title usage was summarized. In this article institutional data for EBSCO databases are addressed. Identifiable institutions were grouped into broad categories (four-year colleges/universities, junior/technical colleges, public libraries & systems, K-12 school environment, special/corporate). There is also a general state library account that covers general users and libraries and organizations that cannot be identified because they do not have dedicated or static Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. The data can be expressed in terms of searches conducted or the number of sessions undertaken. Session data at the institutional level is considered to be more reliable because it represents a complete set of search actions and not just a single search by an individual.

Individual Institutional Users

Usage by individual institutions or groups is based largely on their size, with bigger institutions seeing more activity. Excluding the general state library account, which represents the single heaviest user of BadgerLink databases, academic institutions represent the most active users in terms of total sessions conducted. When ranked by total sessions conducted, after the general state library account, four-year public and private colleges occupy the next nine places based on session data for the 2001, 2003 and 2005 data. The largest academic institutions in the state (UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee) have represented the most active users. For junior and technical colleges, Milwaukee Area Technical College, UW Colleges, Gateway Technical College, and Madison Area Technical College represented the highest users depending on the year. In the public library and system domain, the South Central Library System and the Milwaukee Public Library have engaged in the most sessions. In the K-12 environment, the Appleton Area School District, Madison Metropolitan School District, and Milwaukee Public Schools have been most active. Finally, in the special or corporate environment, heaviest usage has been observed by health-based organizations, including Aurora Health Care, Bellin Hospital, and Covenant Libraries.

Usage by Institution Type

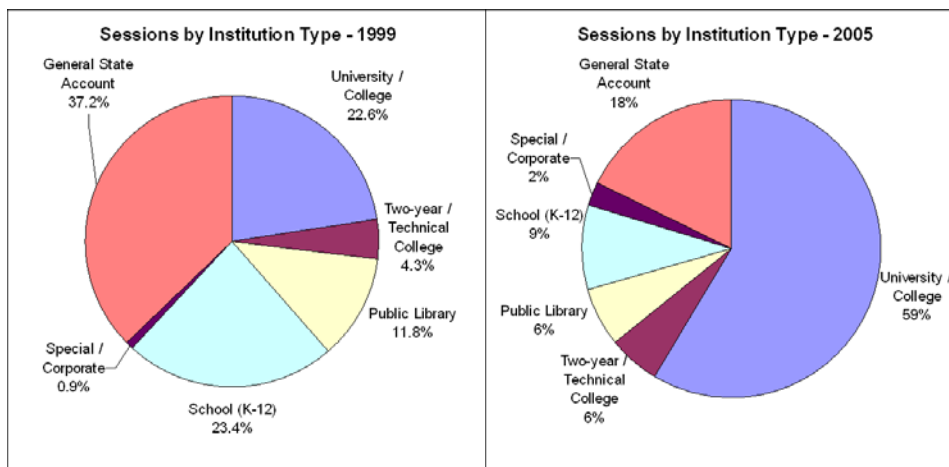


Figure 1 – Relative Use by Institution Type

Data for overall institution type may be broken down a number of ways. To provide a sense of the change in relative usage by institution type, the percentage breakdowns of overall usage for 1999 and 2005 are presented in Figure 1.

Academic users continued to grow in terms of the percentage of sessions conducted between 1999 and 2004, while public library and K-12 school usage has declined as an overall percentage.

Please see BadgerLink — on page 9

BadgerLink — from page 8

Usage through the state library account has also declined since 1999, which is undoubtedly attributable to an increase in the number of libraries and organizations with identifiable IP addresses in that time. Overall usage by all institutional types is up over the past six years when the raw figures are compared (Figure 2). Note that the vertical axis on this figure uses a factor of 10 scaling to make the changes within each institution type more visible.

Document Format Access

With increasing full text access to EBSCO resources, users across the different institution types are shifting towards more frequent full text requests as opposed to abstracts only. As a result of changes in how EBSCO keeps track of its data, data were only available for 2001, 2003 and 2005. Data comparing abstract to full text access appears in Figure 3. A value greater than one along the vertical axis indicates more abstracts are being requested than full text items per session. Values less than one indicate more full text articles are being requested. The trend across all institution types is towards more full text viewing. This is particularly true for the special/corporate environment, which has seen the greatest drop in viewing abstracts. For four-year university/college environments, there is still a slight preference towards viewing more abstracts over full text results.

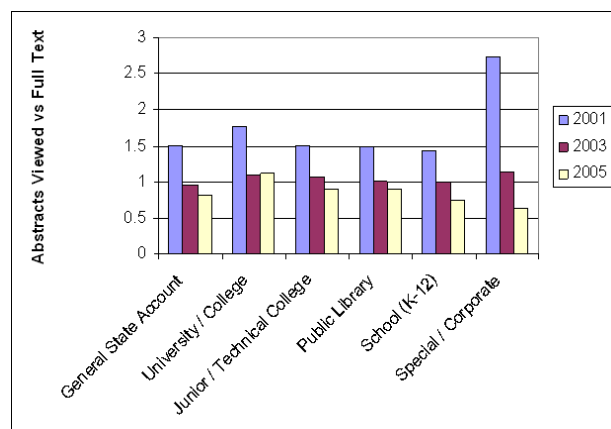


Figure 3 – Abstract to Full Text Requests by Institution Type

revealing of a shift in user search tactics. The average number of searches per session has declined since 1999 across all institution types although this has rebounded somewhat in 2005 (Figure 4).✪

Figure 4 – Average EBSCO Searches per Session by Institution Type

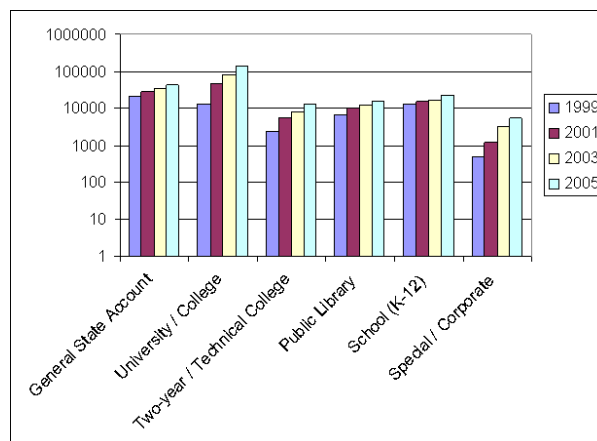
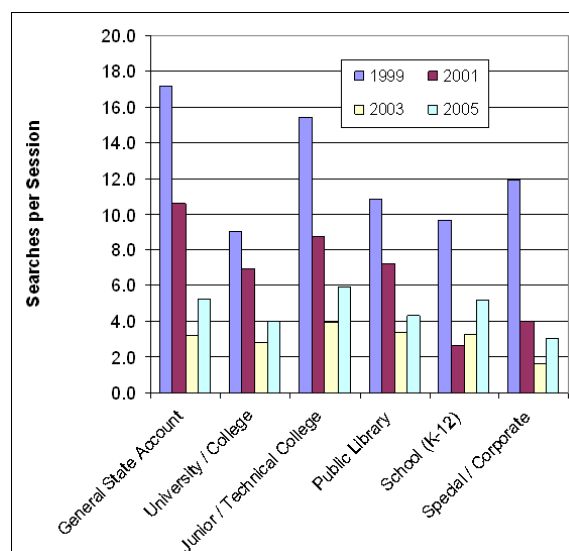


Figure 2 – Average Sessions Conducted per Month per Institution

Search Behavior Changes

One final area of interest relates to searching behavior and whether there has been any change in the number of searches conducted per session. If there are many searches per session, then users are either engaging in potentially multiple search topics, or are modifying their searches frequently because they are not finding what they are looking for. Without knowing the user motivation, this is difficult to determine. Any change, however, is



Preliminary findings from the shared integrated library system cost study

By **Bob Bocher**, Library Technology Consultant
Public Library Development Team

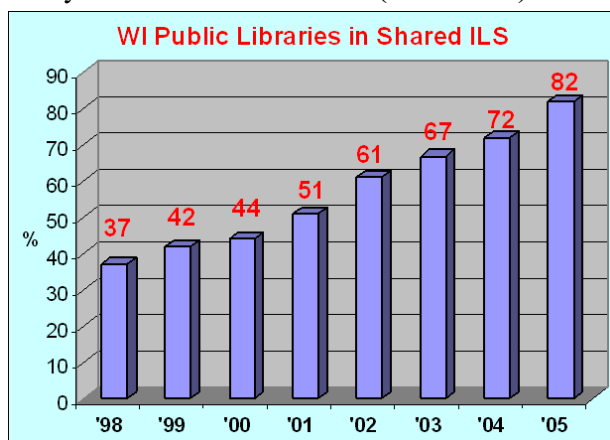
Background

As reported in a previous *Channel* (Vol. 40, no. 6, July-August 2005), the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning used \$45,000 in LSTA funds to sponsor a study on the costs of shared integrated library systems (ILS) in the state's public libraries. The information collected as a result of the study will help the division in planning for the future development of shared ILS. The ILS cost study sought to answer several key questions including:

- What are the actual costs of operating the shared ILS?
- Who pays for what costs?
- What are the different funding models used to support shared ILS?

Following a competitive bid process, the Division selected Networked Information Management Consultancy to conduct the study. Charles R. McClure and William E. Moen served as the consultants for the study.

Participation in shared integrated library systems by Wisconsin public libraries has steadily increased since the public libraries in the Milwaukee County Federated Library System implemented the first shared system in the late 1970s. By 2000, 44% of the state's public libraries were in shared systems. This number has increased over the past several years, and by July 2005 the percentage of public libraries in shared systems had increased to 82% (317 libraries).



Much of the increase in shared system participation since 2000 can be attributed to the availability of heavily subsidized data lines through the state's TEACH program. Also, since 1997-98 the Division has awarded \$3.26 million in LSTA funds for start-up costs for public libraries to join shared ILS.

Study Methodology

In late summer 2005, Division staff and staff from several library systems reviewed drafts of the cost study questionnaire prepared by the consultants. The questionnaire was sent to the directors of shared systems in mid-September. In early October another questionnaire was sent to 101 libraries which are members of shared systems. Sessions with several focus groups, representing staff from library systems and individual libraries, were held in conjunction with the WLA conference in La Crosse in late October. Throughout the study, the consultants also referred to background information and data provided by the Division.

Some of the key questions asked in the surveys included:

- Current usage and capacity of the shared ILS
- Information related to membership in the shared ILS
- Future scenarios for shared ILS in the state
- Funding the operation and maintenance of the shared ILS
- Charges for participation in the shared ILS and sources of revenue

Overall, the respondents to the two questionnaires demonstrated a good faith effort in completing the questionnaires, but reconciling the answers was sometimes a challenge. For example, not all shared ILS operations have uniform accounting and budgeting practices in place for categorizing and tracking costs. Another common issue that emerged concerned how to identify specific costs associated with operating the shared ILS compared to other costs that might be affected by the existence of the shared ILS (e.g., reciprocal borrowing and delivery charges). These challenges notwithstanding, the completed questionnaires resulted in a wealth of data.

Preliminary Findings

Below are some of the preliminary findings.

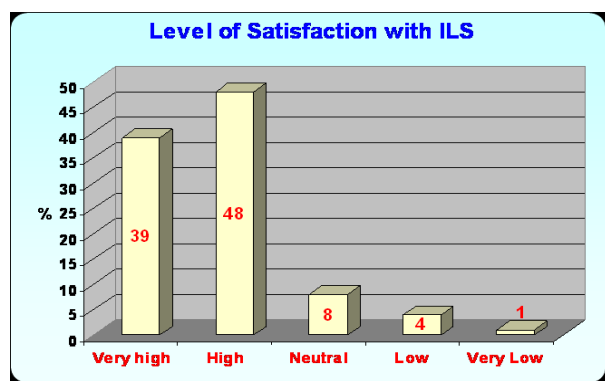
- 82% (318 of 387) of the state's public libraries were in shared integrated library systems as of September 1, 2005. There are shared ILS in 16 of the state's 17 public library systems. All the shared ILS in the state use one of four vendors: Dynix (9 ILS), Innovative (3), Sirsi (3), GEAC (2). (Dynix and Sirsi have merged).
- In 7 of 17 ILS (41%), membership is restricted to public libraries. The other 10 (59%) indicate that they allow

Please see *Cost Study* — on page 11

Cost Study — from page 10

membership by other types of libraries too. Even in those shared ILS that allow membership by other types of libraries, however, very few have members other than public libraries.

- The following were noted by staff as advantages of participation in a shared ILS:
 - A large majority (87%) indicated high or very high levels of satisfaction with their shared ILS.



- ILS membership offers access to higher quality software with greater functionality, and staff receive better technical support than if they did not participate. Staff also noted that planning and upgrades of the ILS were done by people more knowledgeable in this area than staff in the library.

- Member libraries had access to a larger and higher quality collection of materials than relying only on their local collections. This was especially beneficial to smaller libraries.

- The following were noted by staff as issues, although not necessarily disadvantages, of participation in a shared ILS:
 - There is a need for more ILS staff to provide technical support, and recruitment of trained staff in this area is difficult.
 - Once a library is committed to a shared ILS there is no “turning back.”
 - There is some loss of control or flexibility in local library decision making.
 - Significant net lenders of materials are often not compensated for this imbalance.
- The total annual expenses for operating all the shared ILS statewide is \$6,167,698. Of this, 74% is paid by fees charged to member libraries, 18% is paid by state aid to systems, and 8% comes from other sources.

The following were among the questions asked in the survey of libraries in shared integrated library systems. Respondents were asked to rank each question as follows: Strongly Agree = 1; Agree = 2; Neutral = 3; Disagree = 4; Strongly Disagree = 5.

Questions	Responses				
	1	2	3	4	5
In the time frame of the next 4-8 years, Wisconsin should make it a priority to implement a single statewide shared ILS for all public libraries.	12%	33%	26%	18%	11%
In the time frame of the next 2-4 years, Wisconsin should make it a priority to reduce the number of existing shared ILS by combining or merging systems.	15%	23%	33%	21%	8%
In the time frame of the next 2-4 years, Wisconsin should make it a priority to have a <i>single vendor</i> provide all shared ILS for public libraries.	12%	22%	30%	22%	13%

For More Information

More information on the Shared Integrated Library System Cost Study, including the full report, is available on the Web at dpi.wi.gov/pld/sharedilsstudy.html. You may also contact Bob Bocher(robert.bocher@dpi.wisconsin.gov, 608-266-2127) with any questions. ☺

Book donations to aid Louisiana students and educators

(Editor's Note: In late December, Instructional Media and Technology Team director Steve Sanders and his wife, Kathy Sanders, library media specialist at Taylor Prairie Elementary, traveled to the New Orleans to deliver books being donated by students and families at Cottage Grove and Taylor Prairie Elementary schools.)

Educators hope to encourage students to experience the joy of reading. When they go on to share that joy with others, it takes on a special meaning. Students and families at Cottage Grove Elementary, Taylor Prairie Elementary, and the Cottage Grove PTO of the Monona Grove School District decided to help students in Louisiana by purchasing books from the two fall bookfairs and donating them to the Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE).

Over 300 books were donated by students, families and educators from the district, in addition to bookstore gift cards and a cash donation of \$150. The books were taken to Louisiana over winter break. Janet Smith, the library director of the (LRCE), accepted the donations. Book by book it is hoped that Louisiana students will be back on the path to knowing the joy of reading and that Louisiana educators will have access to the resources to help get them there.

The LRCE houses a multi-media lending library of 21,000+ items, which can be searched online and sends out the resources throughout Louisiana, thus providing them to educators who need them most. The resource center provides materials for educators and learners in the public, private, parochial, charter, and home school sectors. With thousands of students displaced from the areas affected by

the flooding and the hurricanes and hundreds of libraries destroyed or damaged, the LRCE meets a critical need. In addition, the LRCE provides workshops and training for Louisiana's educators, an alternative certification program, and assists with placement services for Louisiana's displaced teachers. While the center receives some funding from the state it depends on private donations to maintain its services and develop the collection.

Information for schools and libraries interested in helping school libraries following the Hurricane Katrina disaster is available at the LRCE's web page at <http://www.lrce.org/>.



Janet Smith, left, accepts books delivered by Kathy Sanders.

**Division for Libraries, Technology,
and Community Learning**
Wisconsin Department of
Public Instruction
125 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841

PRSRT STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WI
PERMIT NO. 1369

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Printed on recycled paper.